

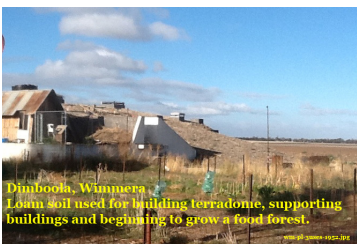
**This email updates the progress “Soil Selfies” project through August  
If this is the first time you have received an update from me, as I have only met you recently, please add this  
email address to your safe senders.  
Please, if you do not want to receive updates, email me to take you off my list. But you may also suggest  
people to add! Thankyou.**



Horsham, Wimmera  
Beautiful soil rich in organic matter and nutrients



Murtoa, Wimmera  
Backyard soil grows food for family (family favourite)



Dimboola, Wimmera  
Loam soil used for building terradome, supporting  
buildings and beginning to grow a food forest.



Warracknabeal, Wimmera  
Clay soil mixed with sand used for mud brick house

## Hi to Soil Selfies contributors and supporters

Have you thought about how soil supports your health? “*Soils support health*” was the August IYS theme promoted by the SSSA. In some way each Soil Selfie in the collection contributes to the health – physical or mental- of people. September is Victoria’s Biodiversity month and the SSSA theme “*Soils protect the natural environment*” links to this with Soils support natural environments.

## Wimmera-Mallee Soil Selfies webpages growth

Another 11 of the Soil Selfies for the Wimmera-Mallee were added to the <http://soils.enviroed4all.com.au/soil-selfies/wimmera-mallee/> website in August. This part of the collection now has 23 giving a good coverage of uses and issues for soils. Their webpage links on the Wimmera-Mallee webpage have now been arranged into the following groups:

- Soils grow **food for the world** – Bangerang minimum-till broad-acre farming, Batchica no-till broad-acre farming, Jeparit grains and home orchard, Horsham agriculture research, Werrigar East sheep grazing.
- Soils grow **food for families** - Dimboola xericulture, Dimboola organic orchard, Horsham backyard garden, Jeparit grains and home orchard, Murtoa backyard garden, Werrigar East sheep grazing
- Soils are at the base of **natural environments** – Barrett Forest Reserve, Dimboola revegetated hillside, Jeparit Wimmera River verge 1 on bare ground and 2 on ground with plenty of plant litter, Pine Plains in Wyperfeld National Park.
- Soils support our **recreational places** - Horsham Wimmera River Walking Track, Horsham GIP for photography, Lake Hindmarsh dry lake bed 4WD, Pine Plains camping in Wyperfeld National Park, Warracknabeal tractor pull, Warracknabeal Rifle Club, Wycheproof sport field,
- Soils support **building and infrastructure** – Dimboola Terradome, Longerong Ag Show marquees, Warracknabeal mud brick house, Warracknabeal tractor pull track, Warracknabeal Rifle Club butte,

These webpages are available freely for anyone to use to learn more about soils and our uses of them. In schools, they could mainly used for literacy, Science, Geography, Agriculture, Environment and Sustainability. Thankyou to those who have contributed them. I am still looking for more, especially this month to be able to show more natural environments.



## Snooping into our Soils – National Science Week program in schools, and the 3<sup>rd</sup> session for the Wimmera Soil Education session.

*Snooping into our soils* provided simple physical and chemical investigations of soil from the children’s homes as a Science incursion. It was wonderful to see children’s reactions to seeing grains of soil under a magnifying glass, how soil reacts when water is dropped onto it, if water forms a clear or murky layer on it in a simulated rain event, and how to separate the sand, silt, clay and plant matter into layers.

This was all great science for August’s National Science Week and involved 200 children and their teachers in 8 primary schools. Needless to say, it kept me very busy through that time!

## Soil Selfies at the Horsham Plaza

The Wimmera-Mallee Soil Selfies collection were also on display in the Horsham Plaza as a National Science Week activity. It was the third public display for the photos originally taken to Berlin for Global Soil Week. The display included questions to look for key things in the photos. For part of their Plaza time, I was able to be there to offer some of the Snooping into our Soils activities to adults too

## In my Winter Paddock

This article for the Wimmera Farmer covered our lambing, visiting sheep farms in Switzerland and Denmark, the Sustainability and our Farmlands Environments workshop in Gotenburg for the World Environmental Educators Congress and Snooping into Soils for National Science Week. A pdf copy of it with photos is now on the “Soil in Stories” webpage at <http://soils.enviroed4all.com.au/soils-in-stories/> .



With thanks for your involvement and especially encouragement as we enter the last part of this IYS,  
Jeanie